

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1-22 remain in the application. Claim 23 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 19, and 21 have been amended.
2. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-6, 9, 10, 12-15 and 19-22 are patentable over the combination of Lesaint et al. (US 6,578,005, "Lesaint") and Clark ("Developing Operating Procedures for Projects Involving Multiple Organizations Using a Linear Responsibility Chart, "Clark") under 35 USC 103(a).

The combination of Lesaint and Clark fails to disclose or suggest

representing the plurality of tasks in a first dimension of a matrix and the plurality of resources in a second dimension of the matrix, wherein each relationship identifier is represented as a geometrical figure at the interconnection or point of intersection between the respective task and resource corresponding to that relationship identifier,

the processing unit further configured for representing a connection between each relationship identifier corresponding to a different resource and relating to a particular task,

as substantially recited by claims 1, 19, and 21.

The Examiner properly points out that Lesaint does not explicitly teach, among other things, "wherein each relationship identifier is represented at the interconnection or point of intersection between the respective task and resource corresponding to that relationship identifier."

Applicant respectfully submits that Lesaint also fails to disclose or suggest that each relationship identifier is represented as a geometrical figure at the interconnection or point of intersection between the respective task and resource corresponding to that relationship identifier, as recited by the amended claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that Clark also fails to provide or imply this feature. Clark shows and describes a linear responsibility chart that provides actions in rows along a vertical axis and individuals, departments, and organizations that will perform or have impact on those actions in columns along a horizontal axis. One or more responsibility codes in the

form of letters are defined to indicate the responsibility of an entity in a column relative to the actions in the rows. The responsibility codes letters are placed in each cell of the chart to indicate the responsibilities.

The present claims are different because they recite using a geometrical figure at the interconnection or point of intersection. The relationship identifiers are represented at the point of intersection in order to represent the relationships between the tasks and resources efficiently for improved project management as stated in paragraph [0007] of the published application. Different types of relationships are represented by different geometrical figures for better visualization as set forth in paragraph [0008]. In contrast, Clark only uses letters to define responsibility codes.

The Examiner also properly points out that Lesaint does not explicitly teach, among other things, representing a connection between each relationship identifier corresponding to a different resource and relating to a particular task.

Applicant respectfully submits that Clark also fails to provide or imply this feature. As mentioned above, Clark shows and describes a linear responsibility chart that provides actions in rows along a vertical axis and individuals, departments, and organizations that will perform or have impact on those actions in columns along a horizontal axis. One or more responsibility codes are placed in the cells of the chart to indicate the responsibilities of the individuals or groups relative to the actions.

The present claims are different because they include representing a linear connection between relationship identifiers that correspond to different resources. In other words, between a relationship identifier that correspond to one resource and another relationship identifier that corresponds to another resource there is a linear connection between the identifiers that are related to a particular task. This provides a visual representation of the relationship identifiers corresponding to different resources but all relating to the same task. In contrast, Clark discloses different responsibility codes associated with the same resource and a particular task. For example, codes A and B are shown for the "Process Engineering" organization related to the "Process design specification changes" action. Thus different process codes are associated with a single resource. The present claims provide a linear connection among relationship identifiers for different resources that are associated with a particular task. There is no equivalent connection between responsibility codes corresponding to different resources in Clark.

Therefore, the combination of Lesaint and Clark fails to render claims 1-6, 9, 10, 12-15 and 19-22 unpatentable.

3. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7 and 16-18 are patentable over the combination of Lesaint, Clark and the Examiners Official Notice under 35 USC 103(a).

Claims 7 and 16-18 depend from claim 1. The Examiners Official Notice fails to disclose or suggest the features of claim 1 missing from the combination of Lesaint and Clark, that is, representing the plurality of tasks in a first dimension of a matrix and the plurality of resources in a second dimension of the matrix, wherein each relationship identifier is represented as a geometrical figure at the interconnection or point of intersection between the respective task and resource corresponding to that relationship identifier.

Therefore, the combination of Lesaint, Clark and Examiners Official Notice fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claim 1 and fails to render claims 7 and 16-18 unpatentable.

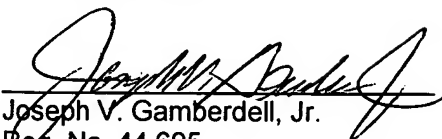
4. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is patentable over the combination of Lesaint, Clark and Bui et al. (US 6,398,727, "Bui") under 35 USC 103(a).

Claim 11 depends from claim 1. Bui fails to supply the feature of claim 1 missing from the combination of Lesaint and Clark as argued above. Therefore, the combination of Lesaint, Clark and Bui fails to render claim 11 unpatentable.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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24 October 2011
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